

January 6, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky 2 West Miller Senate Office Building 11 Bladen Street Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

As chairman of the Maryland Home Improvement Commission, I am offering my support of Senate Bill 116 Maryland Home Improvement Commission – Sunset Extension.

The commission is currently scheduled to terminate on July 1, 2022. This legislation would allow the Maryland Home Improvement Commission to continue to regulate the home improvement industry and extend the termination date until July 1, 2032.

The commission regulates the home improvement industry and continues to provide consumer protection to all Marylanders. Through licensing of home improvement contractors and salespersons, the commission effectively serves the needs of both consumers and contractors.

The commission employs investigators to respond to and resolve consumer complaints. Investigators are trained to address the needs of aggrieved homeowners. The commission may file criminal charges assisting in the prosecution of cases brought against unlicensed home improvement contractors. A civil citation or a warning may be issued to less serious violations of home improvement law.

Lastly, the commission manages a Guaranty Fund that allows homeowners to receive monetary awards for claims of actual loss due to unsatisfactory, incomplete, or abandoned home improvement work performed by licensed home improvement contractors.

On behalf of the Maryland Home Improvement Commission, I encourage the committee to support SB 116.

Sincerely

Joseph Tunney Chairman